

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 29 DEC 2005

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Applicant's or agent's file reference P204-0297WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/011646	International filing date (day/month/year) 06.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 08.08.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int.Cl. B41J29/46, 29/38, G06F3/12		
Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☒ a total of 8 sheets, as follows:
 - ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 29.03.2005	Date of completion of this report 09.12.2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer Junichi Hatai Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3261

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011646

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4(a))
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-27 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- Nos. 10-15 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- Nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- Nos.* 1-9, 16-24 received by this Authority on 2005.03.29
- Nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets/figs Fig 1-12 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets/figs* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets/figs* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011646

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1 - 2 4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1 - 2 4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1 - 2 4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations(Rule 70.7)

<The following document has been considered for the purpose of this report:>

The document D2,D3 was not cited in the international search report.>

D1= JP 2003-187124 A (Fuji Xerox Co,Ltd) 2003.07.04,
Column 【0047】 - 【0049】 , 【0053】 Family: none

D2= JP 2003-196068 A (Canon Kabusikikaisya) 2003.07.11,
Column 【0023】 - 【0029】 Family: none

D3= JP 2003-66787 A (Kabusikikaisya Ricoh) 2003.03.05,
Column 【0012】 - 【0016】 Family: none

The subject matter of claim 1-24 is considered to involve an inventive step over the documents cited D1-D3
<for the following reasons:>.

Claim1 : None of the prior art documents cited in the international search report describes [a step of receiving accses information for accessing to a service providing apparatus, which is designated by the service agent apparatus; a step of receiving page information used to provide a service according to the information associated with the additional items, whereby accessing to the service providing apparatus on the basis of the access information; and a step of requesting the service providing apparatus to provide a service on the basis of the page information.] , and it was not obvious for the person skilled in the art to employ that the technical feature.

Claim5: None of the prior art documents cited in the international search report describes [a step of generating page information used to present a service providing page according to the information associated with the additional items of the devices the client terminal; and a step of transmitting the page information generated in the step of generating to the client terminal via the network wherein the service providing apparatus is designated on a basis of information of the device from the client terminal.] , and it was not obvious for the person skilled in the art to employ that the technical feature.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: **Box No. V**

Claim8: None of the prior art documents cited in the international search report describes [a step of generating access information required to access the service providing apparatus, which provides a service on the basis of the acquired information associated with the additional items; and a step of transmitting the generated access information to the service request apparatus.], and it was not obvious for the person skilled in the art to employ that the technical feature.

Claim21 : None of the prior art documents cited in the international search report describes [a first reception unit adapted to receive access information for accessing a service providing apparatus, which is designated by the service agent apparatus; a second reception unit adapted to receive page information used to provide a service according to the information associated with the additional items, whereby accessing to the service providing apparatus on the basis of the access information ; and a request unit adapted to request the service providing apparatus to provide a service on the basis of the page information that provides the service.], and it was not obvious for the person skilled in the art to employ that the technical feature.

Claim22 : None of the prior art documents cited in the international search report describes [a generation unit adapted to generate page information used to present a service providing page according to the information associated with the additional items of the device to the client terminal; and a transmission unit adapted to transmit the page information generated in the step of generating to the client terminal via the network, wherein the service providing apparatus is designated on a basis of information of the device from the client terminal.], and it was not obvious for the person skilled in the art to employ that the technical feature.

Claim23 : None of the prior art documents cited in the international search report describes [a generation unit adapted to generate access information required to access the service providing apparatus, which provides a service on the basis of the acquired information associated with the additional items; and a transmission unit adapted to transmit the generated access information to the service request apparatus.], and it was not obvious for the person skilled in the art to employ that the technical feature.

Claim24 : None of the prior art documents cited in the international search report describes [a generation unit adapted to generate page information used to present a service providing page according to the information associated with the additional items of the device a reception unit adapted to receive page information used to provide a service according to the information associated with the additional items, whereby accessing to the service providing apparatus on the basis of the access information; and a request unit adapted to request the service providing apparatus to provide a service on the basis of the page information that provides the service..], and it was not obvious for the person skilled in the art to employ that the technical feature.

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of requesting a service associated with additional items of a device via a network, comprising:

- 5 a step of acquiring information associated with additional items from a device;
- a step of transmitting the information associated with the additional items to a service agent apparatus;
- a step of receiving access information for accessing
- 10 to a service providing apparatus, which is designated by the service agent apparatus;
- a step of receiving page information used to provide a service according to the information associated with the additional items, whereby accessing to the service
- 15 providing apparatus on the basis of the access information; and

a step of requesting the service providing apparatus to provide a service on the basis of the page information.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein
- 20 the device is a printer, the additional items include inks used by the printer, and the information associated with the additional items includes information indicating remaining levels of the inks.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein
- 25 the device is a printer, the additional items include inks used by the printer, and the step of receiving includes a step of receiving page information that displays icons

corresponding to the remaining levels of the inks from the service providing apparatus.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting transmits additionally information

5 associated with the device, and

the service providing apparatus is designated on the basis of the information associated with the device.

5. (Amended) A method of providing a service associated with additional items of a device, comprising:

10 a step of receiving information associated with additional items of a device from a client terminal via an agent apparatus and a network;

a step of generating page information used to present a service providing page according to the information
15 associated with the additional items of the device to the client terminal; and

a step of transmitting the page information generated in the step of generating to the client terminal via the network

20 wherein the service providing apparatus is designated on a basis of information of the device from the client terminal.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the device is a printer and the information associated with
25 the additional items of the device includes information indicating remaining levels of inks used by a printer device.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the device is a printer, the information associated with the additional items of the device includes information indicating remaining levels of inks used by a printer
5 device, and the step of generating includes a step of generating page information which includes icons to be displayed in correspondence with the remaining levels of the inks.

8. (Amended) A method of controlling an agent
10 apparatus which mediates between a service providing apparatus that provides a service associated with additional items via a network, and a service request apparatus that requests a service, comprising:

a step of acquiring information associated with
15 additional items from a device;

a step of generating access information required to access the service providing apparatus, which provides a service on the basis of the acquired information associated with the additional items; and

20 a step of transmitting the generated access information to the service request apparatus.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of acquiring additionally information associated with the device, includes model information and retailer
25 information of the device, language information of a driver of the device.

10. A program for making a computer execute a request method of a service request apparatus of claim 1.
11. A program for making a computer execute a providing method of a service providing apparatus of claim 5.

12. A program for making a computer execute a providing method of a service providing apparatus of claim 8.

13. A computer-readable recording medium recording a program of claim 10.

5 14. A computer-readable recording medium recording a program of claim 11.

15. A computer-readable recording medium recording a program of claim 12.

10 16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting transmits additionally information associated with the device, and the access information is Uniform Resource Locator (URL) to be generated on the basis of the information associated with the device.

15 17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting transmits the information associated with the additional items to a service agent apparatus, whereby the information associated with the additional items is transmitted as argument of URL for accessing to the service agent apparatus.

20 18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting transmits additionally information associated with the device, includes at least model information and retailer information of the device, language information of a driver of the device, and status
25 information of the additional items.

19. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the information of the device includes at least model

information and retailer information of the device,
language information of a driver of the device, and status
information of the additional items.

20. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the
5 step of acquiring additionally information associated with
the device, and the step of generating the access
information for accessing to the service providing
apparatus to be designated on the basis of the information
of the device.

10 21. (New) An apparatus for requesting a service
associated with additional items of a device via a network,
comprising:

an acquisition unit adapted to acquire information
associated with additional items from a device;

15 a transmission unit adapted to transmit the
information associated with the additional items to a
service agent apparatus;

a first reception unit adapted to receive access
information for accessing a service providing apparatus,
20 which is designated by the service agent apparatus;

a second reception unit adapted to receive page
information used to provide a service according to the
information associated with the additional items, whereby
accessing to the service providing apparatus on the basis
25 of the access information; and

a request unit adapted to request the service
providing apparatus to provide a service on the basis of

the page information that provides the service.

22. (New) An apparatus for providing a service associated with additional items of a device, comprising:

a reception unit adapted to receive information

5 associated with additional items of a device from a client terminal via an agent apparatus and a network;

a generation unit adapted to generate page information used to present a service providing page according to the information associated with the additional
10 items of the device to the client terminal; and

a transmission unit adapted to transmit the page information generated in the step of generating to the client terminal via the network,

wherein the service providing apparatus is designated
15 on a basis of information of the device from the client terminal.

23. (New) An apparatus for controlling an agent apparatus which mediates between a service providing apparatus that provides a service associated with additional items via a
20 network, and a service request apparatus that requests a service, comprising:

an acquisition unit adapted to acquire information associated with additional items from a device;

a generation unit adapted to generate access
25 information required to access the service providing apparatus, which provides a service on the basis of the acquired information associated with the additional items;

and

a transmission unit adapted to transmit the generated access information to the service request apparatus.

24. (New) A system for providing a service via a network,

5 comprising:

a acquisition unit adapted to acquire information associated with additional items from a device;

a generation unit adapted to generate page information used to present a service providing page
10 according to the information associated with the additional items of the device;

a reception unit adapted to receive page information used to provide a service according to the information associated with the additional items, whereby accessing to
15 the service providing apparatus on the basis of the access information; and

a request unit adapted to request the service providing apparatus to provide a service on the basis of the page information that provides the service.

20